goods, technology and other materials required for smooth running of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) and (b). The impact of recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector essentially relates to the utilisation of undisbursed credit and supply of plant and equipment for the steel plants. The Minister of External Affairs has recently visited Moscow and discussed various aspects of India's economic co–operation with the Soviet Union. The discussions have revealed that there was a genuine desire on the part of the Soviets and Russian leadership to address all problems with a view to finding early solutions to them and that existing agreement on economic co–operation would be honoured. The problems will be further discussed in greater detail during the visit of Moscow of a high level multi–disciplinary group from India which will meet their counterparts, both from the USSR and also from the Russian Federation. It is not, therefore, possible to definitely assess the impact, if any, of the recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector projects at this stage.

Nuclear Weapons Free World

4670. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation called for the destruction of nuclear weapons by the nuclear powers and also for banning of nuclear tests during the recent meeting of the United Nations General Assembly;

(b) if so, the response of the other member countries thereto;

(c) whether the Government had made any initiative to attain the goal of 'Nuclear Weapons Free World' after the six–nation initiative by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These objectives are supported by the large number of countries.

(c) In June 1988 former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi while addressing the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, presented an Action Plan for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2010.

(d) The Action Plan calls upon the international community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament. It contains a package of measures that structurally links the entire range of issues presently on the world disarmament agenda. The most essential feature of the Action Plan is the achievement of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a phased and time–bound manner.

Strike by ONGC Employees

4671. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O.N.G.C. workers went on a strike in protest against the kidnapping of some of their colleagues by the militants;

(b) if so, the number of O.N.G.C. employees kidnapped, got released and still with the ULFA and other militants in the North–east; and

(c) the loss suffered due to the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten officers of ONGC were kidnapped in North–East India, out of whom five officers have been released and the remaining three are reported to have been released. However, one officer is yet to establish contact consequent on his release. Two officers were killed.

(c) From 9.9.1991 till normalisation of operations, ONGC suffered loss of production equivalent to Rs. 90.22 crores (excluding levies).

Flood Banks in Andhra Pradesh

4672. SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for strengthening the flood banks in Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) to (c). In November, 199, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had informed Central Water Commission that they have a proposal to raise the existing flood banks of the Godavari river downstream fo Sir Arthur Cotton barrage as per the norms laid down by Central Water Commission in a phased manner in the coming 4 years. The detailed project report has not been received at the Centre for technology economic appraisal.

[*Translation*]

Vehicles at the Disposal of Indian Embassies

4673. SHRI RAM NARIN BERWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vehicles at the disposal of Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the last three years, year–wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Setting up of Oil Refineries with the Help of Non–Resident Indians

4674. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some oil Refineries in the country with the help of Non–Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the number of such Oil Refineries proposed to be set up; and

(c) the places where such Oil Refineries are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). No decision